



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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January 22, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : King to Mill Streets 23kV Electric
Line Extension
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : King Street - Georgetown & Groveland
PROJECT WATERSHED : Parker River
EOEA NUMBER : 13165
PROJECT PROPONENT : Massachusetts Electric Company
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : December 23, 2003

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the construction of a second 23 kilovolt (kV) electric line from the King Street Substation in Groveland to the Mill Street Junction in Georgetown for about 1.6 miles. The proposed second line would provide power to the Georgetown-Rowley-Ipswich area. The existing 23kV line provides power to the Newbury-West Newbury-Newburyport area. The project includes the installation of about 37 single wooden poles to carry the 23kV line. The proponent will install new breakers and other equipment and expand the existing fenced area by about 1,824 square feet (sf) at the King Street Substation.

The project is subject to review pursuant to Sections 11.03(2)(b)(1) and 11.03(2)(b)(2) of the MEPA regulations because the project may alter a designated habitat and might take an endangered or threatened species. It will require a Public Convenience and Necessity Permit from the Department of Telecommunications and Energy. The project may need a permit from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). It

will require a Programmatic General Permit-Category 1 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It will require Orders of Conditions from the Georgetown and Groveland Conservation Commissions for impacts to wetland resource areas. MEPA jurisdiction is limited to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of state permits and that may have significant environmental impacts (wetlands, estimated and priority habitats, and energy).

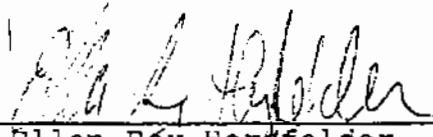
A gravel access roadway is located within most of the 80-foot wide utility easement.

The project will affect approximately 300 sf of bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) and 200 sf of Riverfront area for the location of wooden poles and temporary construction impacts.

On December 30, 2003, the proponent completed a Habitat Assessment of the project right-of-way (ROW). In its comment letter, NHESP has determined that this project occurs within resource areas that are actual habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species. NHESP has stated that the installation of some of the proposed utility poles, and the associated creation of new unpaved access roads has the potential to adversely affect the actual wetland habitat of rare wildlife and result in a "take" of state-protected species. It has recommended that the proponent develop a detailed work plan designed to minimize potential impacts to rare species and their habitat, with attention to the habitat areas identified in the Habitat Assessment. I ask the proponent to continue to work with NHESP to provide mitigation for any potential impacts to Estimated and Priority Habitats from pole locations and construction impacts.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent, a review of the comment letters, and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR.

January 22, 2004
Date


Ellen Roy Herzfelder

cc: Nancy Baker, DEP/NERO

EOEA #13165

ENF Certificate

January 22, 2004

Comments received:

Christine Comiskey, 12/31/03
MassWildlife, 1/9/04
National Grid, 1/6/04

E13165
ERH/WTG/wg